

number. Now that the car is stabilized, a HSR and full restoration will be undertaken in the future.

A number of "Paint & Park" reports have been completed on other pieces of railroad equipment over the last year at Steamtown. Two box-cars, a flatcar, a gondola and two switcher locomotives have received reports. Most of these have received stabilization and cosmetic painting. If the Restoration Shop had to wait for a full HSR to be generated, only one or two of these might have received needed work. It must be noted, however, that the "Paint & Park" reports are an interim measure, and are not intended to replace the HSR.

#### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Christopher T. Baer, William J. Coxey, and Paul W. Schopp, *The Trail of the Blue Comet, A History of the Jersey Central's New Jersey Southern Division* (The Kutztown Publishing Company, Inc., 1994), 371.
- <sup>2</sup> Bank checks information for stub numbers 2582 and 2584. Steamtown National Historic Site Archival Collection—Steamtown Foundation Papers (STEA 3287).

- <sup>3</sup> Doug Lilly, "Wood, Steel and Fried Eggs: Cabooses of the Lehigh New England," *Flags, Diamonds and Statues*, 6:1, Issue 21, Lehigh New England, Nostalgia Series, Videotape (VHS) (Chalfont, PA: Stewart Hobbies, Inc., 1990), 45.
- <sup>4</sup> DelVecchio, Michael (MDelvec952@aol.com), "Re.: Questions about LNE caboose 580." E-mail to Patrick McKnight (PAT\_MCKNIGHT@nps.gov). [8 December 1998].
- <sup>5</sup> Dick Steinbrenner, "The Ubiquitous Northeastern Caboose," part 3 of 3, *Railroad Model Craftsman*, (September 1982): 83.
- <sup>6</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>7</sup> Central Railroad of New Jersey "Invitation to Bid" to Steamtown Foundation. STEA 3287.
- <sup>8</sup> Lehigh New England, Nostalgia Series.

R. Patrick "Pat" McKnight is the park historian and archivist for Steamtown National Historic site, where he researches various aspects of Steamtown, including its rolling stock, and oversees an extensive archival collection.

For more information on the LNE 583 or Steamtown's other restoration projects, visit the park's website <[www.nps.gov/stea](http://www.nps.gov/stea)>.

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R. Jay Conant and R. Patrick "Pat" McKnight

## The Rutland Railroad's Caboose No. 28

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**S**teamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, Pennsylvania, has a collection of over 100 pieces of railroad rolling stock, including locomotives, various types of freight cars, passenger cars and cabooses. These pieces represent dozens of railroad companies that operated in the past. One of these companies was Vermont's Rutland Railroad, which ran from 1860 to 1961. One piece of equipment at Steamtown is the Rutland Caboose #28, which has been fully restored and is on exhibit at the park.

Author Conant, a member of the Rutland Railroad Historical Society, discovered that no line drawing of the #28 exists today.

Corresponding through email from Montana with park staff in Scranton, Pennsylvania, he has been able to put together a reasonably accurate representation of this caboose using computer aided drawing (CAD) tools. The resulting document will aid Steamtown National Historic Site (NHS) staff in interpreting and preserving the caboose, and provide the Rutland Railroad Historical Society with previously unavailable information.

Caboose #28 is one of a group of supposedly identical wood cabooses, numbered 25 through 37, built in 1920 at the railroad's shops in Rutland, Vermont. However, comparison of the length and height of #28 with caboose #36,

which currently is located in Bellows Falls, Vermont, indicates that the body of #28 is one-and-one-half inches shorter in length and one inch taller than #36. Window placement is also slightly different. The cupolas on the two cabooses differ markedly. The #28's cupola is fairly short and has straight sides, while #36's is taller and the sides have a noticeable slope outward. According to a former Rutland Railroad employee, cupolas were subjected to quite a bit of stress because of the jostling the caboose received during operation and, as a result, needed to be replaced fairly often.

The staff at Steamtown NHS hopes to continue to take part in the exchange of information

regarding railroad history with railroad museums, historical societies and individuals with railroad-ing interest. Steamtown is situated in the former Delaware, Lackawanna & Western yard in Scranton. The yard was once a major transportation hub in the Northeast. Now Steamtown is a hub for railroad history.

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*Rutland Railroad Caboose #28, drawn by R. Jay Conant with assistance from Pat McKnight, 1999. Scale: 3/16" = 1'.*

